

Workshop With NWS Partners

Discussion/Actions

Valid Time Event Code (VTEC)

Discussion Points:

- › A numbering system for VTEC is desirable and improves the utility of VTEC
- › Any numbering system is better than none
- › The implementation of VTEC without numbering is better than no VTEC
- › Implementation schedule is okay but prefer national implementation

Spanish Products

Discussion Points:

Partners expressed a desire for the use of new product categories (NNN) in the AWIPS header for Spanish products. When considering the decision to implement changes to the issuance of Spanish and English products, the Office of System Operations (OSO) should consider partners' wishes. If this suggestion is accepted, these new codes must be able to tie into the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and NOAA Weather Radio (NWR).

Dissemination of Radar Data

1. While NWS partners realize plans for the dissemination of radar data are in the draft phase, they would like to be kept up-to-date on decisions made as the plan progresses.

Recommended Action(s): NWS should assess various means for quarterly reporting of the status of the dissemination of radar products.

Action Office: OSO - Mike Carelli

Status: There has been no change in the status of NIDS. It will be necessary to extend the current NIDS agreements for a limited time. The terms of the extension are being worked out. Once the terms are finalized they will be posted on the Web at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/im/>

NOAAPort

2. Need to evaluate the placement of the Communication Control Block (CCB) by the Network Control Facility (NCF).

Recommended Action(s): Correct the erroneous entry in the CCB.

Action Office: OSO - Fred Branski

Status: **Closed.**

Erroneous entry in the CCB has been corrected.

3. There should be a designator for mixed mode products (text versus graphics) in the CCB.

Recommended Action(s): NWS should investigate creating a new value for the identification of mixed mode products. If successful, partners and customers should be notified.

Action Office: OSO - Fred Branski

Status: OPEN

4. High-level listing of NOAAPort products needs to be established in order to help NWS partners and customers understand the myriad of products which are available on NOAAPort. At a minimum, this list should include the WMO heading, product name and description, frequency of issuance and the use of the product.

Recommended Action(s): NWS should create a list. The Internet might be the logical location.

Action Office: OSO242

Status: The NWS agrees the current information on the Internet at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oso/wmohdg.shtml> does not provide enough detail. The NWS is looking into ways to expand this list and to automate the process. Consideration is being given to completing the AWIPS Communication Identifier Policy Implementation changes before expanding this list.

Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS)

5. Partners have a need for special NWS ASOS observations to report temperatures to a tenth of a degree.

Recommended Action(s): NWS will look into the possibility of converting temperature readings in special reports to the nearest tenth of a degree.

Action Office: OSO/OM - Rick Parry/Joanne Swanson

Status: OM has submitted requirements to OSO16. These requirements will be tracked through the change management process which takes 3 to 6 months. If approved, the change will be prioritized into an ASOS software release.

Model Output Statistics (MOS)

Discussion Point:

- › Partners expressed a desire to receive ETA MOS if and when the NWS produces a package for its own forecasters.

6. There is a request from partners to see more MOS data available covering Canadian locations.

Recommended Action(s): NWS will look into what Canadian data is currently available and from what sources. Contact will be made with the Canadian Atmospheric Environment Service.

Action Office: Industrial Meteorology - Allan Eustis

Status: **Closed.**

Some eta model meteograms of forecast output with parameters similar to MOS output are available via the Web. These experimental products are available at the Environmental Modeling Center Homepage at <http://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov:8000/research/meteo2.html>.

Canadian stations can be accessed directly off of the map. To find the actual location, click on the star and copy the WBAN identifier (5 digits) at the top of the meteogram. Proceed to the OSO Homepage to translate the WBAN number into the actual name of the station including latitude and longitude. The site is: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/siteloc.shtml>. Alternatively, the data is available in BUFR format on NOAAPORT and Family of Service.

The Canadian Meteorological Center produces guidance packages for Canadian sites. Packages are available for a cost and contain forecasts of temperature, max/min temperatures, probability of precipitation, clouds, winds, etc. Mr. Rick Jones is the contact for commercial clients. He can be reached by email (rick.jones@ec.gc.ca) or phone 514-421-4782. Internationally, we respect the right of sovereigns to issue and disseminate their own forecasts.

7. MOS guidance is available in ASCII and BUFR (binary format), although BUFR data is available for more locations. While both formats are useful to partners, there should be more advertisement of the BUFR data.

Recommended Action(s): The NWS will send a description of the MOS BUFR messages to the partners and to other FOS users. The NWS will also place the document on an appropriate Web Page.

Action Office: TDL - Paul Dallavalle

Status: **Closed.**

The document is being provided in the July, 1999, action item status update to partners attending the April, 1999 workshop. It is also being placed on the NWS Web at <ftp://www.nws.noaa.gov/im/bufrmemo.pdf>.

Requirements Process

8. It should be made clear how partners can be more involved in the requirements process. They would like to be in a proactive mode rather than reactive.

Recommended Action(s): NWS will look at methods to educate partners on the requirements process and to ensure they have ample opportunity for input. One

approach may be via the Internet. The NWS should investigate the use of a list server.

Action Office: OM - Rich Lane

Status: OPEN

Watch by County

Discussion Points: Partners stressed the need for internal coordination between SPC and the affected WFOs in order to reduce confusion and errors during episodes of severe weather

- When making changes to the current watch process, the following partners' concerns should be considered:
 - Watches should become valid upon issuance
 - More care should be used when replacing a watch box with an updated watch box to avoid confusion regarding which counties are still under a watch
 - When issuing convective watches, the duration of the watch should balance the need of emergency management and the public
- 9. There is a strong desire for the NWS to produce a consolidated list of counties when a watch is issued.

Recommended Action(s): As plans for watch by county solidify, the NWS should strongly consider the issuance of a single list of all counties included in a watch. In order to decrease errors within the county list, before a watch is disseminated, the SPC and all impacted WFOs will coordinate and agree as to which counties will be included in the proposed watch.

Action Office: OM12/SPC - Petersen/Schaefer

Status: A meeting with the Meteorological Services Chiefs approved this concept. Plans are for this action to be incorporated in Phase 1 of Watch Decentralization.

- 10. Partners would like watches issued by the SPC differentiated by type. When receiving the watch message, there is no specific coding to indicate if the watch is a tornado watch or severe thunderstorm watch. One solution is to change the WW designation in the third line of the watch message. It currently is: *SPC WW ddhhmm*. Where dd is day, hh is hour and mm is minute. For example, the WW could be changed to WT for a tornado watch and remain WS for severe thunderstorm watch.

Recommended Action(s): The feasibility of this change should be investigated and the potential impacts of this change on all systems of dissemination.

Action Office: OM12/SPC - Petersen/Schaefer

Status: OM and SPC have coordinated on this suggestion. The SPC will be testing these products with the watches differentiated during the winter and spring of 2000.

Experimental Probabilistic Convective Outlook

Discussion Points:

When implementing the Probabilistic Convective Outlook, consideration should be given to the following comments:

- › Partners prefer separate products covering the risk of tornadoes, hail and high winds
- › All products should include a key
- › Do not use probabilities in the actual watch but use better adjectives to describe the threat to heighten awareness

Public Products

Discussions:

- › Partners would like the 3- to 5-day forecast in the zones implemented nationwide
 - › State forecasts are still worthwhile and partners like both the narrative and tabular style format
11. Winter weather products are becoming a dumping ground for the inclusion of various warnings. For example, a winter storm warning, a winter weather advisory and high wind watch may appear in the same product. Winter weather products should have better segmentation or each warning should be placed in a separate product.

Recommended Action(s): Policy regarding the WSW and NPW products should be reviewed and clarification provided to partners and NWS field offices.

Action Office: OM12 - Jannie Gibson

Status: OPEN

12. Partners indicated frustration over so many WFOs issuing zone forecasts for each state. For example, seven WFOs issue zone forecasts for North Carolina. Partners would like the zones compiled by state.

Recommended Action(s): Methods for compiling zones by state should be investigated.

Action Office: OM12 - Mike Matthews

Status: OPEN

13. Apparent inconsistencies in watches, warnings and advisories sometimes occur across WFO boundaries. This causes problems and confusion for the public and the private sector.

Recommended Action(s): NWS should continue to pursue methods for collaboration and coordination among field offices. WFOs should be reminded of the

importance of inter-office collaboration and coordination in the forecast and warning process.

Action Office: OM11 - Kiser

Status: SPC is currently using FTS2000 Teleconference Service to coordinate with field offices. Western Region field offices routinely collaborate and coordinate forecasts and warnings using FTS2000 Teleconference service. NWS Headquarters is trying to fund and implement teleconferencing and computer based “scientific notebook” capability nationally through the NWS national requirements review and budget process. AWIPS remote display capability of graphic and text products to facilitate coordination is scheduled for Build 5. Action item #9 regarding a single list of counties for a convective watch will also help with this issue.

Short Fused Bullet Style Warnings

Discussion Points:

- › Partners stressed more standardization of products
- › NWS should consider a bullet style format for all warnings
- › Unique lettering for each bullet (A*, B*, C*, etc.) would help match the contents of each bullet with the bullet label (each bullet is currently labeled with an asterisk)

14. Short-fused warnings (tornado, flash flood, severe thunderstorm, special marine) products are not consistently following proper formatting procedures.

Recommended Action(s): Draft a letter to all Meteorological Service Division chiefs to reinforce to their field offices the need for consistent formatting of short-fused warnings products.

Action Office: OM12 - Dan Petersen

Status: OPEN

15. The use of a “text crawl” across a television screen is a very popular method for the dissemination of NWS short-fused warnings. However, problems arise with the text crawl if the bullets are too long and wordy.

Recommended Action(s): Draft a letter to all Meteorological Service Division chiefs to reinforce to their field offices the need for short bullets with less wordiness. Additionally, NWS should inform the media regarding the possible use of the EAS stream to create a text crawl.

Action Office: OM12 - Dan Petersen

Status: OPEN

Miscellaneous

16. Partners would like access to more research polar-orbiting satellite data.

Recommended Action(s): NWS will inform partners of the various means for obtaining this information.

Action Office: Industrial Meteorology - Allan Eustis

Status: **Closed**

The most complete source of polar satellite imagery on the Web is NOAA's satellite active archive at: <http://www.saa.noaa.gov/>. The polar satellite imagery here is the latest available imagery stored on board satellite until the spacecraft flies over a downlink location at either Fairbanks, Alaska, or Wallops Island, Virginia. High resolution direct read out imagery from Anchorage, Honolulu and Monterey is also available here but it may be two hours old.

Other near real time sources of sector polar imagery are the Honolulu and Anchorage Homepage satellite pages at: <http://www.alaska.net/~nwsar/html/sat/sat.html>
http://www.nws.noaa.gov/pr/hnl/pages/satellite_frames.html.

To request more information on polar satellite imagery, or better access to the imagery on the Web, contact Jamie Hawkins at the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, 301-457-5125 and email jamie.hawkins@noaa.gov.

17. There continues to be too many errors within NWS products. This includes but is not limited to the incorrect use of the UGC, WMO headings, wrong warning times and placing products under the incorrect WMO heading. There needs to be consistency among all offices as to the proper use of product headings and the text.

Recommended Action(s): NWS should investigate methods for quality control of products.

Action Office: OM22 - Radlein

Status: The Interactive Forecast Preparation System (IFPS) in AWIPS Build 5 will allow increased standardization of product formats. It should also provide additional product quality control features. Build 5 is scheduled for implementation in the early summer of 2000.

As product generation software improves in future AWIPS software builds, further improvement will occur in elements such as UGC codes, date/time groupings and computer readable formats. AWIPS will also assist offices to be more correct in the use of WMO headers as AFOS headers become a secondary form of product identification.

The NWS will continue to work with partners to improve the quality control of products through AWIPS software builds.

18. All NWS products are issued in upper case format. WMO agreements state NWS products must be receivable and readable by all users of NWS data. This includes those partners and

customers with low end equipment. It was suggested the NWS send products in lower and upper case which have no distribution to low end users.

Recommended Action(s): This suggestion should be investigated within the realms of the NWS commitment to WMO standards, DOD and other partners and customers.

Action Office: OSO/OM11/Industrial Meteorology

Status: **Closed.**

The NWS abides by WMO International standards which does not allow us to transmit in mixed case. The NWS does not have a method for determining who the “low end” users are. Consideration must also be given to those “low end” users who receive NWS products via a provider. Changing to mixed case could impact unknown second and third generation “low end” users.